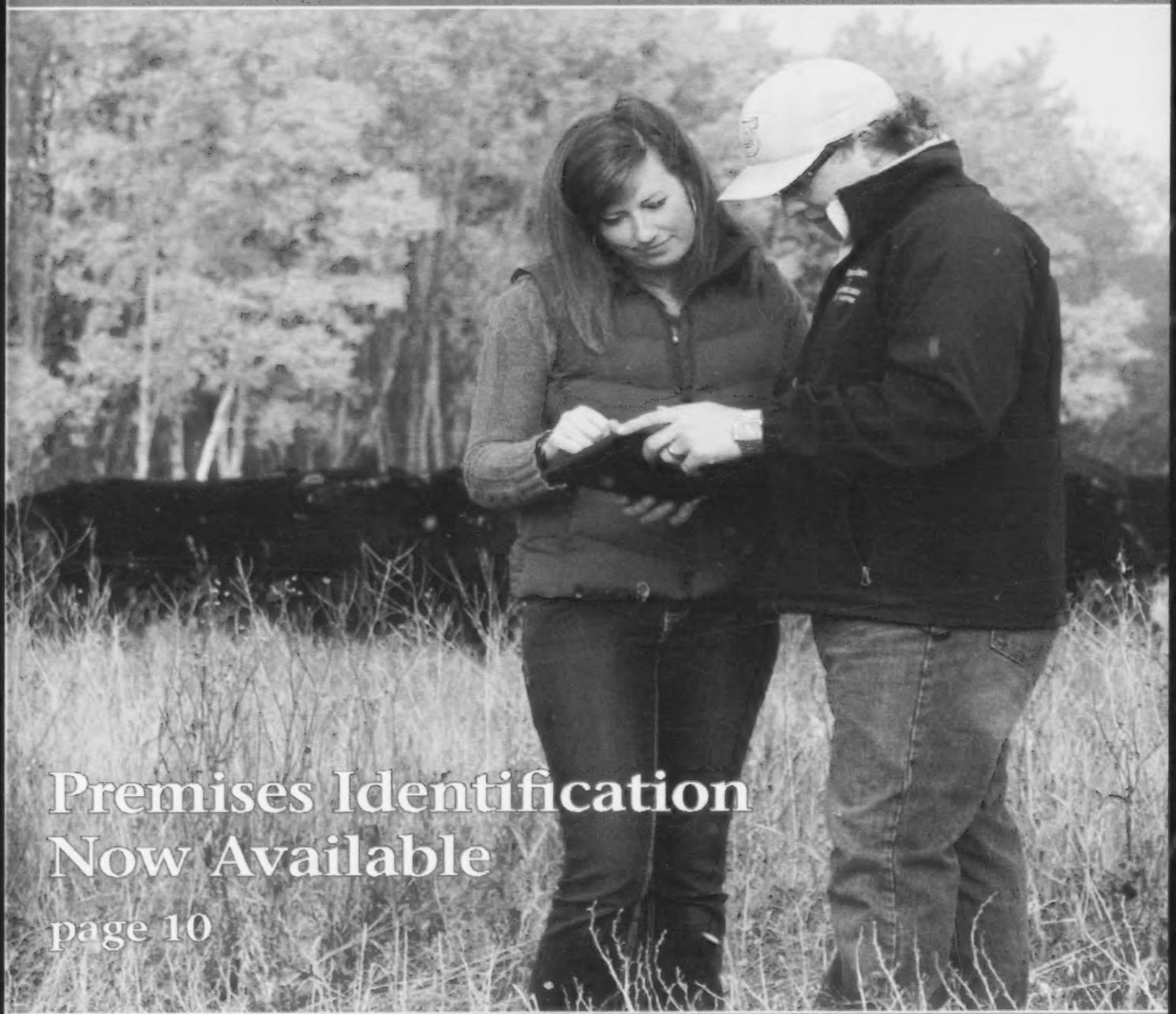
ISSUE 08

AGRIVIEW

DECEMBER 2013 – JANUARY 2014 VOLUME 9



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Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

Minister's Message

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth was released just over a year ago. It contains some bold goals for agriculture production – namely around crop production and agri-food exports. Many thought the goals were too ambitious; that they were simply unattainable. However, I am proud to say that it looks like Saskatchewan producers were up for the challenge.

This past harvest resulted in a crop that is expected to be 25 per cent above last year's production and 33 per cent over the 10 year average. In fact, it looks like we will be very close to meeting the original Growth Plan target of increasing crop production by 10 million tonnes. Saskatchewan has once again proven that we are a province of hardworking and determined producers. As fortunate as we were this year with good yields and quantity, it does not come without its challenges such as transportation and storage. We also know that this past year's production cannot be expected every year. We will have to be innovative and quick to adopt new technologies to sustain our success.

The livestock sector is also an important part of agriculture's Growth Plan, with a goal to significantly increase the size of our beef cattle herd. The livestock sector is an essential part of our agricultural economy, with more than 1.1 million beef cows, we are the second-largest beef-producing province in Canada. Saskatchewan has more than 14 million acres of pastureland and large quantities of high-quality feed, making it the ideal place for livestock development. In 2012, our livestock exports totaled $1.675 billion, accounting for 14 per cent of Saskatchewan's total farm cash receipts. Saskatchewan produces more feed grain than is required by our livestock industry, providing an abundance of feed grains to support current livestock production in Saskatchewan and for future herd expansion.

Our Ministry continues work on programs that benefit our livestock producers, notably Western Canadian Livestock Price Insurance. Livestock Price Insurance has been a need identified by our industry groups for some time, and I am committed to moving forward with the program. I continue to work with both my provincial and federal counterparts to develop a program that will benefit our industry. Livestock Price Insurance will allow producers to manage price risk and withstand volatility in the market. I am optimistic that the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program will be available in the spring of 2014, in all four western provinces, to help cattle and hog producers be sustainable and profitable.

As our ranchers work hard to ensure they raise high-quality and safe food, we also need to ensure that we have market access for our products. The United States' Country of Origin Labeling legislation is a pressing concern for our livestock producers. I am extremely disappointed with the expanded labeling requirements that will hamper our cattle and hog producers' ability to compete in the U. S. market. In November, I attended the North American Meat Association's conference in Chicago where I brought up these concerns. Together with the federal government, I will continue to press the U. S. to respect its trade obligations and repeal COOL.

Finally, I would like to thank all the hard working and extraordinary producers and their families who make our industry the best in the world. I wish you a Merry Christmas, and all the best in 2014.

Lyle Stewart

STORY SNAPSHOTS

Pea leaf weevil

Hoseline making inroads

Drivetrain tel viewardship

Premium pulse development in SK

Correction: The photos of Chad and Darlene Krikau on the cover and on page 8 of the November Agriview should have been credited to Tabatha Larson of Wa'ahlem. We regret the oversight and thank her for her contribution to Agriview.

Cover: Melanie and Tyler Davidson who farm south of Qu'Appelle prepare to market their calves by checking performance records on file.

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Ministry of Agriculture

AGRIVIEW is published by the Communications Branch of Saskatchewan Agriculture for Saskatchewan farmers, ranchers and farm and food organizations. **For more information, call 306 787 5160 or email agriview@gov.sk.ca. To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs services.**

2013 Irrigation Research and Demonstration Highlights

by Rory Cranston, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Outlook
Regional Services Branch
and

Garth Weiterman, PAg
Manager, Agronomy Services
Crops and Irrigation Branch

The Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation (ICDC), through its board of Saskatchewan irrigators, conducts irrigation research and demonstration with producer co-operators and industry partners across the province. Its mandate is to field-test ideas that come from irrigators, industry and researchers at the Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC). A levy on irrigated acres and financial support from Saskatchewan Agriculture allows the ICDC to conduct and co-operate in research and demonstrations relevant to Saskatchewan's irrigators.

In 2013, the ICDC implemented 18 projects. Eight of the projects were located at CSIDC in Outlook and the other 10 were conducted on 12 co-operator farms throughout Saskatchewan. The projects included crop variety evaluations, crop fertility, crop diversification, crop disease and lodging control.

VARIETY EVALUATIONS

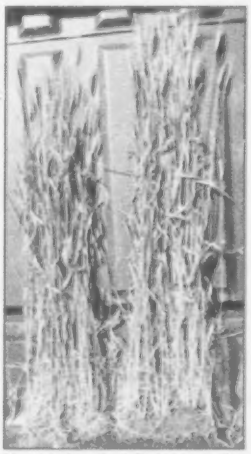
Seventy-five varieties of wheat, 22 varieties of barley, 22 varieties of canola, nine varieties of flax, 26 varieties dry beans, 10 varieties of soybean and 32 varieties of forage species were evaluated for their suitability for irrigated production. These evaluations are published annually in the "Crop Varieties for Irrigation" booklet which is released at the Crop Production Show in January.

FERTILITY PROJECTS

Residual phosphorus, from a large application in the previous year, provided a small alfalfa yield increase on the first and second cut. Forage oats did not respond to nitrogen applied the year after breaking an alfalfa stand. Positive returns were demonstrated with foliar copper applications and increased rates of phosphorous on irrigated wheat.

DIVERSIFICATION PROJECTS

Perennial forage crop demonstration projects successfully established 30 grasses and 20 legumes. The salt-tolerant forages demonstration successfully established five grasses and five alfalfa varieties on a site with a salinity gradient from slight to severe. Twelve corn varieties suited for silage were evaluated for their yield potential under irrigation. The irrigation treatment showed a 25-per-cent yield increase over dryland production. Red lentil production in 2013 was found to decrease in an irrigated environment. A tillage radish demonstration was established but grew poorly due to sodium-affected soils.



The stand on the left was treated with a plant growth regulator, while the stand on the right was untreated.

DISEASE CONTROL PROJECTS

A canola fungicide demonstration indicated that two applications of fungicide to prevent Sclerotinia infection provided the highest yield benefit. A flax fungicide demonstration showed that applying fungicide to protect against the disease pasmo can be beneficial. The application of different fungicides at the same time as the herbicide application showed a small benefit from some of the products in 2013.

LODGING CONTROL PROJECTS

The application of a plant growth regulator in 2013 significantly shortened the height of the crop and increased yield in a demonstration conducted by ICDC in 2013.

Detailed results of all these demonstrations can be found in the *ICDC Program Report 2013*, which will be available on the ICDC website www.irrigationsaskatchewan.com following their December 4 annual general meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Garth Weiterman at 306-867-5528.

Pea leaf weevil spreading across Saskatchewan

by Scott Hartley, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Insect and Vertebrate Pest Management
Crops and Irrigation Branch

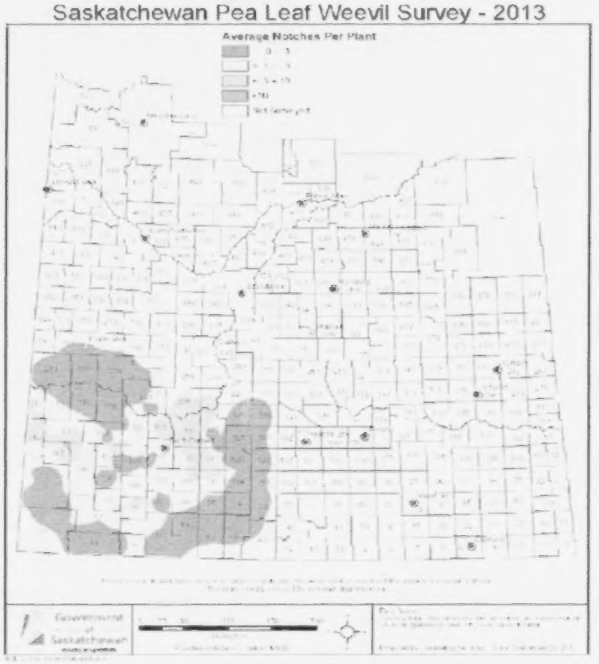
The range of the pea leaf weevil has been expanding in Saskatchewan since damage was first noted in pea crops near the Alberta border in 2007.

Saskatchewan Agriculture conducts annual surveys to determine the distribution of the insect. The 2013 pea leaf weevil survey was conducted from late May to mid-June at 93 observation sites.

The range of this insect continues to expand eastward in southern Saskatchewan, but the most intensive feeding remains confined in the southwest. The eastern edge of the pea leaf weevil range appears to be midway between Swift Current and Moose Jaw and south to near the U.S. border. In 2012, feeding notches on pea plants were noted in a couple of fields just north of the South Saskatchewan River. In 2013, evidence of the weevils' feeding was noted in rural municipalities 228 and 259 in the west-central region, indicating that the beetles' range has extended northward.

As the name suggests, the pea leaf weevil is an insect pest of pea; however, faba bean is also a primary plant host. The adult weevils consume foliage, and heavy infestations in newly emerged crops can significantly reduce stands. Once pea plants have reached the six-node stage, the plants are capable of outgrowing damage. The main concern is yield reduction resulting from the larvae feeding on the nitrogen-fixing nodules on the roots of the plants. Actual yield loss from weevil feeding will depend on both the infestation level and the soil nitrogen level.

This beetle can be controlled with a seed treatment containing an insecticide, or with a foliar insecticide. While seed treatments may not be a cost-effective measure unless damage was noted in the previous year, treatments tend to provide a more consistent yield response than a foliar control. Research has also shown that application of nitrogen fertilizer can alleviate feeding damage from the weevil.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca to view factsheets or the Pea Leaf Weevil Map.

MANAGING GRAIN IN STORAGE

by John Ippolito, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Kindersley
Regional Services Branch

Managing grain in storage is an important activity to ensure that you do not lose the value of the production that you worked so hard for during the growing season. Every year, there seems to be a slightly different twist to the reasons why we have to monitor our stored grain and take some management measures. 2013 is one of those years in which monitoring and management are critical.

A significant amount of the 2013 harvest was done when air temperature was 30 C or higher and the grain was dry. Because of the high temperature at which it was harvested, this grain may present challenges in terms of moisture migration. Hopefully, the first round of cooling to get the grain to 15 C has already been completed. Now is the time to lower the temperature even more. This second round of cooling should equalize the temperatures in the bin and eliminate any spots where moisture migration has produced high moisture concentration.

The abundance of the 2013 harvest has resulted in producers storing grain on the ground in piles or in bags. Grain in bags may require some monitoring if the grain is tough. Dry grain in bags is likely to cool down nicely, mainly because of the narrow cross section of the bag; however, grain piles are a different story. Many of these piles are relatively large in diameter and height, and the ground underneath will still be relatively warm. As a result, the centre of the pile can still be quite warm and moisture migration within the pile is a good possibility. Unfortunately, there is no easy way other than movement to cool these grain piles. For producers with grain piles, ongoing monitoring will be important until that grain can be moved.

The key for managing grain in storage this winter is to monitor the temperature and, if there are temperature differences in the stored grain, to take measures to cool the grain and equalize the temperatures. This can be accomplished with aeration systems or by moving grain out of the bin and putting it back in.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Refer to the factsheet Grain Storage Considerations – FAQs on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca;
- Contact the Regional Crops Specialist at the local Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1 866 457 2377.

Take another look at faba beans

by Dale Risula, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Special Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Many of the market development issues that have held back faba (or fava) bean production in Canada are now gone. Today's varieties have shorter plants and smaller, more uniform seeds. There are registered spray applications for harvest aid, allowing faba beans to be straight-combined. The crop can also be swathed. The beans thresh easily and the plants resist lodging. Faba bean fits well in the Black Soil Zone where pulses have not been a significant part of crop rotation. Pulses should make up 20 per cent of the crop rotation to promote a healthy system.

Almost 10 years ago, the Crop Development Centre (CDC) at Saskatoon began breeding new varieties of faba bean suitable for the Egyptian market. Some companies currently offer production contracts for this market. In 2012, the CDC released a smaller, white flower type of faba bean for replication by seed growers. This faba bean is commonly referred to as a zero-tannin type.

Faba bean is a good alternative to pea in areas of higher moisture.

The release of this type of faba bean is timely because of growing interest in fractionation, which processes the bean to extract protein for sale as a separate entity. Faba bean's protein is 30 per cent compared to other pulses at approximately 23 per cent. There is commercial interest in large-scale protein extraction, but marketing of this crop into the protein extraction business needs to be accelerated.

People in Middle Eastern countries use faba bean for food as it is a good source of energy and protein. However, some people have an hereditary enzyme deficiency that prevents them from digesting an alkaloid found in the bean, leading to a disease called favism. Currently, the CDC is breeding varieties with reduced levels of that alkaloid.

Producers who want to add pulses to their rotations but live in an area that is too moist for peas should consider faba bean because it likes cooler, moist conditions. It will also do well in warm, moist conditions so it has potential for widespread adaptation throughout Saskatchewan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

HASKAP: A FRUIT THAT'S FINALLY GETTING RECOGNITION

by Forrest Scharf, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Fruit Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

In North America, the haskap—or blue honeysuckle—remains a relatively obscure fruit, but it recently gained exposure across Canada when it was featured on CBC's *The Nature of Things* episode "The Fruit Hunters: Defenders of Diversity Part 2 of 2". The show highlighted researchers and growers of rare fruit from around the globe who are dedicated to collecting, propagating and breeding fruit, and to introducing greater fruit diversity into the marketplace. Haskap was the only Canadian fruit featured in the episode. In it, Dr. Bob Bors of the University of Saskatchewan, grower Hamish Graham of Heavenly Blue Honeysuckle Orchards in Birch Hills, and Bill and Marg Sullivan of Four Seasons Greenhouse in Tisdale highlighted the features of this fruit that make it particularly attractive.

Haskap is the Japanese word ("haskapu") for the fruit of the blue honeysuckle (*Lonicera caerulea*). It was the Japanese who first grew the plant for its fruit, and it was from the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido that Dr. Bors obtained some of the genetics for the new cultivars he bred (named Tundra, Borealis, Indigo Gem, Treat, Yum, Aurora and HoneyBee) in Saskatchewan. Other sources of Lonicera genetics in the U of S collection are the boreal forest of Canada and the Kiril Islands on the Pacific coast of Russia. The Russians have been breeding haskap for more than 50 years.

The Nature of Things was not the only time that Canadian haskap made the news recently. In October, the fruit producer LaHave Forest of Nova Scotia won the title of World's Best New Fruit Juice Product at the World Juice Awards in Cologne, Germany. Their juice is called Haskapa, and owner Liam Taylor said the judges liked that it "looks like wine, so can be a wine substitute on your table. With its rich, dark colour and flavour, haskap berry juice is also an ideal ingredient in cooking and in cocktails".

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Forrest Scharf, Provincial Fruit Crop Specialist at 306-787-4666 or forrest.scharf@gov.sk.ca; or
- Visit www.fruit.usask.ca, www.heavenlybluehaskaps.com, www.prelocalfood.ca/members.html, www.onegreenworld.com or www.haskaps.com.

The Lee Inc mechanical Haskap harvester in action at the 2013 Haskap Field Day at the U of S.

Varieties of Grain Crops 2014 available in January

by Mitchell Japp, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Cereal Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Saskatchewan producers will soon be able to evaluate the newest grain crop varieties available for production on their farms in *Varieties of Grain Crops 2014*. The variety comparisons are made available by an industry-government partnership.

Regional variety trials are conducted annually in Saskatchewan to compare the agronomic performance of grain varieties in a range of environments under consistent management practices. Regional testing is done at both public and private research institutions around Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Agriculture provides $100,000 towards variety testing annually.

The testing program is administered by the Saskatchewan Variety Performance Group, which represents industry and government organizations that have an interest in variety testing information. The group administers the regional tests for wheat, durum, malt and feed barley, oats and flax. Other organizations conduct regional testing for other crops. The results of the testing are reviewed by the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops, which also updates disease and other agronomic information and approves the data prior to publication.

The program creates a database that provides producers with independent, comparative information on the varieties they grow. The published results include information on yield, agronomics and certain market-related traits valuable to producers. Depending on the crop type, information can include factors such as yield, maturity, protein, lodging, disease resistance, height and seed weight.

The varieties of each crop are compared to a standard check variety so fair comparisons can be made. Check varieties are generally a commonly grown variety with cross-regional adaptation. Since not all varieties are tested 'head to head' over the same years, producers are reminded to compare individual varieties with only the check variety.

Varieties of Grain Crops 2014 will be available in January on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website. It can also be obtained from any Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office or at the Crop Production Show in Saskatoon from January 13 to 16. It is also an insert in the SaskSeed supplement distributed with *The Western Producer* in January.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Mitchell Japp, Provincial Cereal Crops Specialist, at mitchell.japp@gov.sk.ca or 306-787-4664; or
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Varieties_Grain_Crops.

2014 GUIDE TO CROP PROTECTION AVAILABLE AT CROP PRODUCTION SHOW IN JANUARY

by Clark Brenzil, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Weed Control
Crops and Irrigation Branch

The *2014 Guide to Crop Protection*, published by Saskatchewan Agriculture, for Saskatchewan producers, will be unveiled on the first day of the Crop Production Show, January 13, at the Saskatchewan Agriculture booth. Copies of the *2014 Guide to Crop Protection* will also be available at other agricultural trade shows, local farm chemical retail outlets or Saskatchewan Agriculture regional offices in early January and throughout the growing season.

The large number of product options listed in the *Guide to Crop Protection* makes it an important reference tool for producers and agronomists. The *2014 Guide to Crop Protection* will have approximately 550 pages. Inside there are summaries of more than 225 herbicides, 60 foliar fungicides, 60 seed treatments and 50 insecticides. Each of the Weed Control, Foliar Fungicide, Seed Treatment and Insect Control chapters includes helpful charts that allow for narrowing choices down quickly based on crop-pest combinations.

In the *2014 Guide to Crop Protection*, the Pesticide Formulation and Companies charts beginning near page 20 will be replicated, with the second version sorted according to the active ingredient (common name) in each product, allowing users to search for products that are very similar in their contents and by extension their uses.

An electronic version of the *2014 Guide to Crop Protection* will also be available in January on the Saskatchewan Agriculture web site. Look for a spring update of the guide on the Ministry website in May.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Guide_to_Crop_Protection; or
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

2014 Regional Pulse Workshops coming in February

by Dale Risula, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Special Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Saskatchewan Agriculture and the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers are teaming up again this year to hold four regional pulse workshops in February.

This event will be held in four locations across Saskatchewan, giving producers a chance to network with other growers, researchers and industry representatives. Speakers will address local pulse research, new varieties for the area, soybean production, farm management practices, a market update and an update on Saskatchewan Pulse Growers' research.

Industry representatives will be on hand to talk about new products and answer producers' questions. Admission to the workshops is $20, which includes lunch and refreshments. Meetings start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.

Due to the high interest in these events, early registration is recommended.

Regional Pulse Workshops will be held in North Battleford, Rosetown, Swift Current and Regina in early February.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to register:

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Location:	North Battleford	Rosetown	Swift Current	Regina
Date:	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6
Venue:	Dekker Centre 623 Carlton Trail	Civic Centre 1005 Main St.	Stockade Building 1700 -17th Ave. SE	Evraz Place 1700 Elphinstone St

WHAT'S NEW AT CROP PRODUCTION WEEK 2014

by John Ippolito, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Kindersley
Regional Services Branch

Crop Production Week, which runs from January 13 to 18, 2014, in Saskatoon, will be a little different from previous years' events.

One major change is that the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, SaskCanola, SaskFlax and the Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission are joining together for CropSphere at TCU Place on January 13 to 15. This will be a combination of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions and annual meetings for these organizations. A number of the commodity associations and others will still be conducting their meetings at the Saskatoon Inn during the week.

The Western Canadian Crop Production Show will be happening from January 13 to 16 at Prairieland Exhibition. This is one of the more important events for cereal, pulse and oilseed producers in Western Canada. The show gives crop producers the opportunity to meet with exhibitors from the crop production, farm business management and crop marketing sectors. These exhibitors are able to provide information on new technologies, services and products for crop producers.

An additional event for this year is a precision seeding seminar that will be held on January 16 in conjunction with the Crop Production Show. This seminar will focus on precision seeding and practices such as setting up management zones and using precision agriculture technology for on-farm trials.

As usual, Saskatchewan Agriculture will have a significant presence at the Crop Production Show as it is an opportunity for Ministry staff to interact with large numbers of producers and also to launch new publications and guides for the upcoming cropping season. The Ministry booth also provides producers with the opportunity to see the latest crop and insect forecasts and the results of disease survey. Ministry specialists will be in attendance to discuss these and other agronomic issues.

Crop Production Week, CropSphere and the Western Canadian Crop Production Show have a common website that has detailed information on all the activities, including meeting agendas and registration information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Crop Week website at www.cropweek.com.

The Crop Production Show is a chance for Ministry staff to meet face to face with the producers they serve.

Environmental Stewardship: Information and Assistance

by Andy Jansen, P.Eng
Manager, Agricultural Operations
Livestock Branch

Raising livestock in an environmentally responsible manner provides numerous benefits for the livestock producer and for the community at large. However, implementing environmental improvements to a livestock operation may be technically challenging and costly. Fortunately, financial programs and technical expertise are available.

Before starting a new project or initiating plans to enhance an existing operation, it is important to first determine if there are aspects that require regulatory approval. Determining this early in the process minimizes the chance of costly delays and regulatory issues.

There are a multitude of support programs available to help livestock producers operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

The rural municipality will usually have regulatory requirements for intensive livestock operations. Zoning bylaws may put constraints on some developments. Contact the local RM administrator for information on the municipal regulations.

Livestock developers are advised to contact the Water Security Agency (WSA) to determine their regulatory requirements for the proposed development or expansion. The WSA requires permitting for investigating and developing water supplies, drainage diversions and any work near a shoreline.

Intensive livestock operations require approval under *The Agricultural Operations Act*. A self-assessment form is available on the Ministry of Agriculture website to help determine if approval is required (www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Environmental_Strategy). Saskatchewan Agriculture staff can provide technical assistance in assessing environmental risk and information on locating and designing runoff controls to ensure water is protected. Staff can help with retaining professional assistance, if required.

Funding under the Growing Forward 2 Farm Stewardship Program is available for dealing with environmental concerns from existing operations, and funding is also available to develop water supplies under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program. Funding under both programs is cost-shared.

The Farm Stewardship Program provides eligible Saskatchewan producers with financial assistance to implement beneficial management practices that help maintain or improve the quality of soil, water, air and biodiversity. The program includes 13 practices under six categories:

- Livestock Site Management;
- Manure Management;
- Land Management;
- Pest Management;
- Irrigation Management; and
- Precision Farming.

FOR MORE INFORMATION specific to the FSP or to FRWIP:

- Call the toll-free line 1-877-874-5365 or email fpl@gov.sk.ca.

IMPROVING THE HERD THAT YOU HAVE – SASKATCHEWAN BEEF INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2014

by Kim McLean, PhD, PAg
Provincial Cattle Specialist
Livestock Branch

Beef cattle producers, industry representatives, researchers, agriculture specialists and members of livestock associations and organizations will be gathering for the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference on January 22-24, 2014 at the Saskatoon Inn and Convention Centre. Conference participants will hear from researchers and industry experts regarding the latest in research and technology, industry issues and collaborate to move the beef industry forward.

The 2014 conference promises to be a great learning event for everyone involved in the beef industry. The Beef and Forage Symposium is a popular event during the conference. Speakers from across North America will be present to give the latest updates on research and technology available to beef cattle producers. The theme of the symposium this year is "Improving the herd that you have" and will emphasize the importance of using effective management practices to help advance your existing cattle herd. Topics of interest for the one-and-a-half symposium include genomics, artificial insemination, corn grazing, risk management and market updates. A discussion will also focus on reproductive performance and animal health issues regarding poor quality feeds.

In addition to the day-and-a-half symposium there will be industry meetings including the annual general meetings of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association and the Saskatchewan Livestock Association. The semi-annual general meeting of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, breed association meetings and other industry meetings occur during the conference.

Please mark this event on your 2014 calendar. This is a great time to get out and interact with Saskatchewan beef cattle producers and industry personnel.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference organizers at 306-731-7610.
- Visit www.saskbeefconference.com for additional information and registration details.

Beef biosecurity manual now available to beef producers

by Julie-Anne Howe, MSc
Animal Health Programs Officer
Livestock Branch

Biosecurity protocols are becoming increasingly important in the face of increased farm traffic, marketing and animal movement, which is why the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) published the *Canadian Beef Cattle On-Farm Biosecurity Standard and Implementation Manual*. This standard applies to all types and sizes of beef operation. The goal of the standard is to use management strategies to reduce the risk and impact of diseases on farm.

Economic losses due to disease are a significant factor in beef operations. The use of biosecurity protocols can save producers and industry money in the long term. For example, it is estimated that respiratory disease alone accounts for 16 per cent of calf losses, some of which could be prevented by using biosecurity practices to minimize the spread of disease within and among herds. Considering there are more than 80,000 cattle operations in Canada, it is clear that minimizing disease risk offers a significant savings to the entire beef industry.

The risk of foreign animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, can be greatly reduced by creating and implementing farm biosecurity plans. It is estimated that an outbreak of foot-and-mouth could cost the Canadian beef industry $48 billion but this could be reduced by half by using policies that address zoning, identification and traceability and biosecurity.

Simply put, biosecurity is a safety policy to ensure the health of a beef cattle operation through four major principles:

- Managing and minimizing animal movement risks;
- Managing the movement of people, vehicles, equipment and tools;
- Managing animal health practices; and
- Knowledge and training of personnel on the operation's biosecurity plan.

The best resource for producers to develop a specific biosecurity program for their farms is the local veterinarian.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca and look under "Livestock" and "Animal Health and Welfare"; or
- Visit the the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca/ and search for "beef biosecurity" to find the Canadian Beef Cattle On-Farm Biosecurity Standard; or
- Visit the CCA website at www.cattle.ca and look under "Leading Edge Industry Initiatives" to find the biosecurity standard implementation manual.

PROVINCE NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR A SASKATCHEWAN-BASED PREMISES IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

by Paul Marcinlak, PAg, BSA
Livestock Development Specialist
Livestock Branch

Saskatchewan Agriculture is now accepting registrations for a provincial Premises Identification (PID) system.

Premises Identification (PID) is an integral component of Canada's livestock traceability system. Along with animal identification and animal movement reporting, PID is one of the three pillars. Like the proverbial three-legged stool, all three components of traceability are necessary for Canada to have an effective traceability system.

The concept of PID is simple: a number is assigned to link livestock and poultry to that geographic location. The PID registry collects the name, telephone number and mailing address of the person responsible for the care of the animals so they can be contacted in the event of an emergency. The registry also records the capacity of the premises so that in the event of an emergency, a worst case scenario can be constructed.

Access to the PID system is strictly controlled. It will provide the provincial veterinarian, or other entity responding, to rapidly and effectively determine which animals are at risk during an animal disease outbreak. This will increase the control of the disease, decrease the cost of dealing with an outbreak and increase the likelihood of maintaining export markets or enable an earlier return to exporting product.

PID systems have also been used to notify producers of natural or man-made disasters. In Alberta, when a pipeline ruptured, contaminating a creek used to provide water for livestock, the producers affected were notified using data from the PID system. During a flood in Manitoba, affected producers were contacted by emergency measures personnel to determine how best to keep the animals safe.

Producers, auction marts, veterinarians and anyone with livestock are encouraged to apply for a premises identification number through the Ministry of Agriculture. By registering your premises, you make Saskatchewan's livestock industry stronger and protect your herd during a disease outbreak or natural disaster.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/pid.

Saskatchewan: Producer of the world's best pulses

Pulse crops (peas, lentils and chickpeas) are grown and consumed around the world. They are a source of protein and starch to the predominantly vegetarian populations in southeastern Asia, and are growing in popularity in the western world where they are seen as a health food. Saskatchewan is a major producer – and the world's largest exporter – of pulses.

Pulses are also a good source of carotenoids and folic acid (folate), which are essential to human health. The human body needs folic acid (vitamin B9) to synthesize and repair DNA, and it is especially important to pregnant women and children. Carotenoids are important to eye health. In the developing world, millions of children become blind each year as a result of carotenoid deficiency. By developing new pulse varieties with improved levels of carotenoids and folic acid, Saskatchewan could become the preferred supplier of pulses, and millions of people in the developing world can enjoy better health.

Researchers at the Crop Development Centre, with the financial assistance of Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), set out to understand more about the carotenoid and folic acid concentrations in Saskatchewan-grown field peas and chickpeas. (Similar research is being conducted on lentils.) Specifically, they wanted to determine: 1) the carotenoid concentration in different pea and chickpea varieties; 2) whether or not this was affected by where in the province they were grown; 3) where in the pea/chickpea the carotenoids were concentrated, and 4) the folic acid concentration in different varieties of pulses.

They selected 12 pea varieties grown at four locations in 2009 and 2010, and eight chickpea varieties grown at three and two locations in 2009 and 2011, respectively, and processed them to analyze the carotenoid and folate levels.

Saskatchewan-grown peas and chickpeas were shown to contain naturally high levels of all carotenoids, more than rice, wheat, cassava or potato. The chickpea experimental lines DH 45-1 and ICRISAT- 121D and the pea experimental lines MPG 87 and Mini had the highest levels of carotenoids compared to the other samples.

Lutein was the major carotenoid, although zeaxanthin, beta-carotene and violaxanthin were also significant. Where the pulses were grown seemed to have only a minor effect on carotenoid levels, with the exception of violaxanthin levels in pea. Green peas had approximately twice the carotenoid concentration as yellow peas. When the pulses were broken into their component parts, it was found that carotenoid concentration was greatest in the cotyledons, followed by the embryo axis and the seed coat. Folic acid and five different tetrahydrafolate derivatives were found in chickpea, pea, lentil and dry bean seeds. This aspect of the research is still in progress.

The information generated from this project is being used to develop genetic improvement strategies to increase carotenoid and folate concentrations in Saskatchewan pulses. It is also being used to develop nutritional marketing strategies for key export markets such as India. The results show that Canadian pulse products are a source of improved nutrition, potentially earning higher returns for producers. Saskatchewan has an advantage over other jurisdictions in that pulse producers finance a major portion of pulse breeding research in exchange for commercialization rights to the resulting varieties. This provides a unique opportunity to link the fortified pulses directly with a marketing strategy based on the nutritional needs of any part of the world.

Saskatchewan is already the world's leading exporter of pulses. With some more varietal development, the province's pulse producers may be able to market their crops as the world's most nutritious natural whole food.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

In 2013, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture committed $9.9 million in new funding for 61 ADF research projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture research reports page at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADF/Search and enter the report number #200902.79 into the search function.

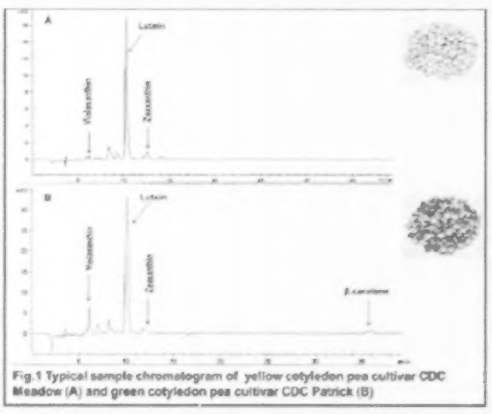


Fig.1 Typical sample chromatogram of yellow cotyledon pea cultivar CDC Meadow (A) and green cotyledon pea cultivar CDC Patrick (B)

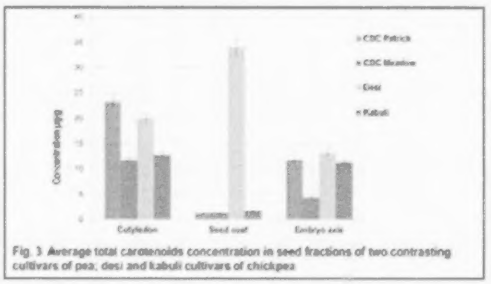


Fig. 3 Average total carotenoids concentration in seed fractions of two contrasting cultivars of pea; desi and kabuli cultivars of chickpea

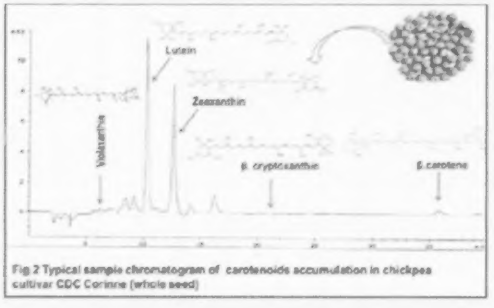


Fig.2 Typical sample chromatogram of carotenoids accumulation in chickpea cultivar CDC Corinne (whole seed)

Government of Saskatchewan

Provincial Land Available for Lease

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE INVITES APPLICATIONS TO LEASE THE AGRICULTURAL CROWN LANDS LISTED HEREIN.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Completed application forms must be received by the appropriate land agrologist at the addresses provided in the following pages by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 20, 2013.
2. Application forms are available from the Ministry of Agriculture's regional offices.
3. Late application forms will be rejected; incomplete applications may be rejected.
4. Improvements such as summerfallow, fencing, dugouts, etc. must be purchased by the successful applicant.
5. Lands offered for lease may have development restrictions.
6. Additional information can be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture's regional offices, Rural Municipality offices or online at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.
7. The Ministry of Agriculture is not responsible for errors or omissions in the advertisement and reserves the right to withdraw lands from the lease allocation process at any time.

An applicant must meet the requirements of the Agricultural Crown Land Lease Policy which include but are not limited to:

- be at least 18 years of age;
- actively manage and operate a farm or ranch unit;
- be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant;
- have a resource base that is not greater than 200 per cent of the municipal average;
- have legal access to the land or written agreements for crossing adjoining lands; and
- have existing accounts with the Ministry of Agriculture in an acceptable status.

Land is allocated only to qualified applicants.

2013 FALL LAND AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

CLOSING DATE DECEMBER 20, 2013 AT 5:00 P.M.

R.M.	LAND DESC	ACRES	CODES	EST RENT	AUM	NOTE
	VALERIE TOWNSEND-FRASER BOX 2003, 110 SOURIS AVENUE WEYBURN SK S4H 2Z9 (306) 848-2378					
8	SW-1-02-17-2	87	H	$900.00		*46 acres hay, rest is waste*
8	[NW-31-01-16-2 SW-31-01-16-2 NE-36-01-17-2 NW-36-01-17-2 NW-25-01-17-2 SW-25-01-17-2]	878	F	$1,600.00	273	
92	SW-29-12-32-1	160	A, F, W	$400.00	72	*Written permission required to cross to crown quarter.*
92	SE-29-09-33-1	158	A,F,W	$300.00	51	*Written permission required to cross to crown quarter. Improvements $9,667.*
95	[NE-11-11-09-2 SE-11-11-09-2]	268	F	$500.00	97	
	PATTY ROBERTSHAW BOX 5000, 350 CHEADLE ST. W. SWIFT CURRENT SK S9H 4G3 (306) 778-8293					
139	NW-18-13-21-3	160	G	$258.00	43	*No water. Fence required.*

R.M.	LAND DESC	ACRES	CODES	EST RENT	AUM	NOTE
	JESSICA WILLIAMS Box 5000, 350 Cheadle St. W. SWIFT CURRENT SK S9H 4G3 (306) 778-8292					
153	SW-11-18-02-3	79	H	$300.00	44	
168	NE-29-21-18-3	42	H, I, PL	$300.00	54	*2013 water taxes $2,800. Plot #59. Plot limit may be waived if no other applicants.*
168	SW-29-21-18-3	39	H, I, PL	$300.00		*2013 water taxes $1,540. Plot #59. Plot limit may be waived if no other applicants.*
224	NE-10-23-04-3	40	H, I, PL	$300.00		*2013 water taxes $1,778. Plot #15 - Grasslands Project. Plot limit may be waived if no other applicants.*
224	NE-16-23-04-3	40	H, I, PL	$300.00		*2013 water taxes $1,778. Plot #15 Grasslands Project. Plot limit may be waived if no other applicants.*

Codes: A-Access limitation, B-Buildings, C-Cultivation, CE-Conservation easement, FW-Farm woodlot, F-Fencing, G-Grazing, GS-Grain storage, H-Hay, I-Irrigation, LA-Living accommodation, LF-Livestock facilities, O-Other, OP-Outfitting prohibited, PL-Project limitations, P-Power, W-Water, Y-Yardsite. *(Denotes land is to be leased as a unit.)

AUM-Animal unit month. Describes the desired carrying capacity of the grazing land.

PL-Project limitations – "An applicant must have less than the pre-determined maximum area or number of plots allowed per individual in special project areas. Where an applicant surrenders a plot or area it shall be allocated to the next highest scorer, until all of the plots are allocated."

R.M.	LAND DESC	ACRES	CODES	EST RENT	AUM	NOTE
	DON FONTAINE 3830 THATCHER AVENUE SASKATOON SK S7R 1A5 (306) 933-5682					
288	NW-24-29-16-3	55	C,G	$700.00	10	
314	NW-29-32-04-3	27	H	$100.00	19	
314	SW-29-32-04-3	27	H	$100.00	13	
377	[SE-36-39-14-3 SW-36-39-14-3]	326	G, F	$500.00	83	
	DAVID SHORTT #A131-1192-102ND STREET NORTH BATTLEFORD SK S9A 1E9 (306) 446-7463					
261	[NE 6-26-27-3 NW-6-26-27-3 SE 6-26-27-3 SW 6-26-27-3]	640	G,F,W,C	$2,200.00	150	
261	[NW-7-26-27-3 SW-7-26-27-3]	320	G,F,W,C	$4,200.00	49	*Requires fencing.*
319	NE-1-33-19-3	40	C	$500.00	2	*Approximately 15 acres cult*
352	SE-29-35-28-3	160	C,F,W	$400.00	64	
381	NE-22-39-23-3	156	C,F,W,H	$400.00	51	*Requires permanent fencing on West side. Natural water source. Access Limited.*
410	[SW-2-40-22-3 SE-3-40-22-3]	213	G,F,W,A	$800.00	69	
411	SW-34-41-25-3	78	H	$700.00	5	*Older hay stand.*
442	NW-34-45-27-3	160	G, F	$300.00	48	*Requires water development.*
442	[NE-28-45-27-3 NW-28-45-27-3 SW-28-45-27-3 NE 29-45-27-3 SE-29-45-27-3]	651	G,F,W	$1,200.00	220	
	TRACEY CHARABIN #A131-1192-102ND STREET NORTH BATTLEFORD SK S9A 1E9 (306) 446-7685					
499	[NE-1-55-21-3 SE-1-55-21-3]	298	G	$400.00	74	*Requires fencing. Prone to flooding.*
499	[NW-1-55-21-3 SW-1-55-21-3]	295	G	$400.00	74	*Requires fencing. Prone to flooding. Access limited - must provide proof of access.*
588	NE-15-60-19-3	160	G	$200.00	32	*Requires fencing and water. Nine ties 15 feet widers.*
	PATRICIA "TRISH" JOHNSON #A131-1192-102ND STREET NORTH BATTLEFORD SK S9A 1E9 (306) 446-7630					
464	NW-24-47-04-3	119	G	$400.00	14	*Access limited. Requires proof of access with application. Requires fence.*
464	SE-5-46-08-3	161	F, G	$200.00	34	
464	NE-5-46-08-3 NW-6-46-08-3 SE-6-46-08-3 SE-7-46-08-3	571	F, G, LF	$600.00	107	
466	SE 7-46-09-3	160	F, G	$300.00	50	*Access limited. Requires proof of access with application. Requires fence.*
466	NW-29-48-11-3 SW-29-48-11-3	241	F, G, LF	$500.00	85	
494	SW-20-53-06-3	72	G	$300.00	45	*Requires fence.*
494	NE-29-53-07-3 NW 29-53-07-3 SE-29-53-07-3 SW-29-53-07-3 SW-32-53-07-3	781	G	$400.00	188	*Requires fence.*
496	NW-13-50-09-3 SW-24-50-09-3	318	G	$400.00	64	*Requires fence.*
496	NW-26-52-12-3 SW 35-52-12-3	128	G	$300.00	44	*Requires fence. Access limited. Requires proof of access with application.*

R.M.	LAND DESC	ACRES	CODES	EST RENT	AUM	NOTE
	TIM FEIST Box 1490, 1105-99th Street TISDALE SK S0E 1T0 (306) 862-1789					
400	[SW-27-42-23-2 SE-28-42-23-2]	320	G	$500.00	80	
401	NE 19-40-27-2	155	G, F	$300.00	52	
430	NE-21-43-22-2	80	G	$500.00	76	
430	NE-36-43-24-2	120	C	$1,300.00	12	
430	NE-7-45-24-2	60	G, F	$400.00	60	
430	[NW 27-44-22-2 SW-27-44-22-2]	90	H, A	$450.00	0	*Access limitations. Lessee must have consent to cross adjacent lands.*
430	[SE-11-44-24-2 SW-11-44-24-2 SW-11-44-24-2]	191	C	$3,600.00	11	
430	[NW-6-45-24-2 SW-6-45-24-2]	215	G,G	$200.00	50	
459	SE-8-49-21-2	110	H, PL	$800.00		*PL LSD 1 & 2, & 1/2 LSD's 7 & 8, Horseshoe Bend Fodder Project.*
459	SW-9-49-21-2	80	H, PL	$500.00		*LSD's 5 & 6, Horseshoe Bend Fodder Project*
459	NE-17-49-21-2	40	H, PL	$1,100.00		*N 1/2 LSD's 9 & 10, Horseshoe Bend Fodder Project.*
459	NE-17-49-21-2	40	H, PL	$1,100.00		*S 1/2 LSD's 15 & 16, Horseshoe Bend Fodder Project.*
459	NE-17-49-21-2	40	H, PL	$1,100.00		*S 1/2 LSD's 9 & 10, Horseshoe Bend Fodder Project.*
483	NE-28-48-01-3	159	G, F	$300.00	48	
486	NW-25-52-12-2	160	H	$200.00	28	
488	NW-27-52-13-2	16	G	$20.00	3	
488	NW-1-53-20-2	160	G	$200.00	13	
491	SW-29-50-25-2	160	H	$800.00		
491	SE 31-51-25-2	40	H, PL	$400.00		*Plot #16 (N 1/2 LSD's 7 & 8, Chest Lake Fodder Project.*
491	NE 25-51-26-2	40	H, PL	$400.00		*Plot 41 (S 1/2 LsD's 15 & 16) Chest Lake Fodder Project.*
493	NW-30-52-02-3	160	G, F	$130.00	23	*Access is limited. Lessee must have consent to cross adjacent lands.*
493	[SE-21-51-03-3 SW 21-51-03-3]	179	G	$400.00	66	
520	SW-12-53-24-2	160	G	$200.00	26	
520	SW-8-54-25-2	155	G	$500.00	100	
520	[NE 21-53-24-2 NW-22-53-24-2]	319	G, A	$400.00	60	*Access is limited. Lessee must have consent to cross adjacent lands. Successful applicant must enter into a Grazing Plan with the Ministry.*
520	[NW-13-52-22-2 NE-14-52-22-2 SE-14-52-22-2]	476	G	$800.00	90	*Successful applicant must enter into a grazing plan with the Ministry*

(Continued on next page)

Codes: A-Access limitation, B-Buildings, C-Cultivation, CE-Conservation easement, FW-Farm woodlot, F-Fencing, G-Grazing, GS-Grain storage, H-Hay, I-Irrigation, LA-Living accommodation, LF-Livestock facilities, O-Other, OP-Outfitting prohibited, PL-Project limitations, P-Power, W-Water, Y-Yardsite. "(Denotes land is to be leased as a unit.) AUM-Animal unit month. Describes the desired carrying capacity of the grazing land

PL-Project limitations – "An applicant must have less than the pre-determined maximum area or number of plots allowed per individual in special project areas. Where an applicant surrenders a plot or area it shall be allocated to the next highest scorer, until all of the plots are allocated."

(Continued from previous page)

R.M.	LAND DESC	ACRES	CODES	EST RENT	AUM	NOTE
	TIM FEIST Box 1480, 1105-99th Street TISDALE SK S0E 1T0 (306) 862-1789					
331	SW-5-34-32-1	160	G	$300.00	48	
331	[NW-21-34-30-1 SW-21-34-30-1]	316	H, G	$1,200.00	19	
333	SW-6-36-01-2	48	G	$-	50	
333	SW-6-36-01-2	103	G	$200.00	32	North of Road
333	[NW 18 37 01 2 SW 18 37 01 2]	320	G	$400.00	62	
334	SE-34-36-05-2	159	G	$200.00	28	
366	[NE-20-39-10-2 NW-20-39-10-2 SW-20-39-10-2]	285	H	$1,700.00	0	
367	NE-30-39-12-2	66	H	$650.00	60	
367	SE-9-38-14-2	135	G	$200.00	28	
367	SW 16 38 14 2	111	G	$300.00	45	
367	SW 12 38 15 2	48	G	$200.00	28	
394	NW-12-46-01-2	159	G	$150.00	24	
397	[SE-24-40-14-2 SW 24 40 14 2]	144		$360.00	60	
397	[NW-19-40-13-2 SW-19-40-13-2]	315	G	$400.00	58	
399	NW-22-41-19-2	160	G	$250.00	40	
399	[SW-14-42-19-2 SE-15-42-19-2 SW-15-42-19-2]	477	G	$820.00	132	
399	[NW-35-40-20-2 SW-35-40-20-2]	164	G	$170.00	28	
399	SE-2-41-20-2	126	H	$610.00	0	
	DEAN CORTUS Box 1480, 1105-99th Street TISDALE SK S0E 1T0 (306) 878-8880					
152	SW-25-17-32-1	120	C	$2,800.00		North of River
181	[SE-33-20-30-1 SW 33 20 30 1]	320	H	$2,000.00		
215	NE-29-22-09-2	157	G	$400.00	55	
215	SW-29-22-09-2	159	G	$300.00	50	
275	NE 29 30 09 2	160	G	$250.00	43	
276	SE-29-28-11-2	160	G	$325.00	52	

R.M.	LAND DESC	ACRES	CODES	EST RENT	AUM	NOTE
301	[NE-29-33-31-1 NW-29-33-31-1 SE-29-33-31-1 SW-29-33-31-1]	377	G	$360.00	60	
305	[NW-2-32-09-2 SE 2 32 09 2 SW 2 32 09 2 NE-3-32-09-2 NW 3 32 09 2 SE-3-32-09-2 SW-3-32-09-2 NE-4-32-09-2 NE-9-32-09-2 SE 9 32 09 2 NE-10-32-09-2 NW-10-32-09-2 SE-10-32-09-2 SW-10-32-09-2]	2109	G,F,W	$5,500.00	432	Improvements – $2500.00. Lost of drainage ditch.
305	[NE-29-31-09-2 SE-29-31-09-2 SW-29-31-09-2]	389	G,F	$360.00	60	Improvements – $750.00
	DEAN CORTUS Box 1480, 1105-99th Street TISDALE SK S0E 1T0 (306) 878-8880					
222	NE-23-22-29-2	80	H	$700.00		
248	[NE-29-27-16-2 SE-29-27-16-2]	212	G	$400.00	66	
250	SW 6 26 21 2	160	G,W	$200.00	30	
280	SE-24-30-24-2	160	G	$400.00	64	
308	NW-29-30-17-2	160	G,F	$250.00	40	Improvements – $650.00
308	NE-7-32-18-2	153	G,F	$350.00	60	Improvements – $400.00
308	SW 19 32 18 2	54	G,A	$130.00	21	
312	[NE-11-33-27-2 SE-11-33-27-2]	320	G,F,W,I,F	$1,000.00	165	Improvements – $3,500.00
340	NE-4-35-23-2	80	G,H	$1,200.00		
340	[NW-4-34-24-2 SW-9-34-24-2]	233	G,F,W	$800.00	129	Improvements – $1,620.00. NW is south of tracks only. Improvements – $1,620.00
368	NE-12-38-16-2	160	G,F,W	$250.00	42	Improvements – $1,620.00 Electric Line N 1/2 lots 9 & 10.
368	NE-18-38-18-2	40	H	$500.00		
371	[NW-11-38-27-2 SW-11-38-27-2]	291	G	$625.00	102	Saskatchewan Environment recreation site not included.

Saskatchewan On-Farm Food Safety (OFFS) Implementation Program

Under the Saskatchewan On Farm Food Safety (OFFS) Implementation Program, provincial commodity groups, or their designates, are invited to apply for funding to assist them in provincial level implementation efforts of their nationally recognized OFFS systems. This includes delivery of training and promotional activities, as well as delivery of funding for producer level implementation. Those sectors that have or are in the process of developing a nationally recognized OFFS systems are eligible to apply.

Following is the contact information for those organizations approved for funding and program delivery. Producers do not have to be members of these organizations to access programming. *For information on specific programming available, please contact the associated commodity group listed below.*

COMMODITY	OFFS SYSTEM	PROVINCIAL DELIVERY AGENT
Beef Cattle	Verified Beef Production Program	Saskatchewan Quality Starts Here/Verified Beef Production Working Group Inc. Coy Schellenberg, Provincial Coordinator Box 701 Rosthern, SK S0K 3R0 Email: office@sasqbp.ca Website: www.sasqbp.ca Phone: 306-850-9110
Sheep	Food Safe Farm Practices	Sask. Sheep Development Board Gordon Schroeder, Executive Director 2716 C Hanselman Court Saskatoon, SK S7H 6A8 Email: gordsheepdb@sasktel.net Website: www.sksheep.com Phone: 306 933 5582
Dairy	Canadian Quality Milk Program	Saskatchewan Milk Marketing Board Deb Haupstein, OFFS Coordinator 444 McLeod St., Regina, SK S4N 4Y1 Email: deb.haupstein@saskmilk.ca Website: www.saskmilk.ca Phone: 306-721-9486
Potatoes; leafy vegetables and cruciferae; Bulb and root vegetables; fruiting vegetables; Asparagus, sweet corn and legumes	CanadaGAP	Sask. Vegetable Growers' Association Murray Gray, OFFS Program Contact Address: Box 55 Aylsham, SK S0E 0C0 Email: m.d.gray@sasktel.net Website: www.svga.ca Phone: 306 862 3798

COMMODITY	OFFS SYSTEM	PROVINCIAL DELIVERY AGENT
Greenhouse production	CanadaGAP	Sask. Greenhouse Growers Association Cherylynn Wolters, OFFS Coordinator Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association PO Box 337 Estevan, SK S4A 1H0 Email: saskgga@gmail.com Website: www.saskgreenhouses.com Phone: 306-739-2051
Small fruit Tree and vine fruit	CanadaGAP	Sask. Fruit Growers Association Patty Stewart, Administrator Box 1107 Yorkton, SK S3N 2X3 Email: kpstewart@yourlink.ca Website: www.saskfruit.com Phone: 306-782-0256
Herbs and Spices Natural Products	Canadian Herb, Spice and Natural Health Product Coalition Good Agriculture and Collection Practices (CHSNC GACP)	Sask. Herb and Spice Association Connie Kehler, Executive Director P.O. Box 7568, Station Main Saskatoon, SK S7K 4J4 Email: shsa@sasktel.net Website: www.saskherbsspice.org Phone: 306-694-4622

Growing Forward 2

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Important AgriStability deadline at the end of December

December 31, 2013, is an important date for farmers and ranchers enrolled in the AgriStability Program. It is the deadline to file program forms and pay program fees to ensure participation in the AgriStability program.

Paying program fees by the end of December is essential to participate in the AgriStability Program for the 2013 program year. An Enrolment/Fee Notice (EN) was issued earlier in the year providing details on the fee and the deadline for payment. April 30, 2013, (or 30 days from the date on the EN, whichever is later) was the initial deadline for paying program fees. A 20-per-cent penalty will be added to the fee because the initial deadline was missed.

All forms for the 2012 program year need to be submitted by December 31. This ensures producers can access AgriStability benefits. The initial deadline for sending in program forms was September 30. Forms received after this date and before December 31 will have a $500 per month penalty applied; however, if no benefit is generated, there will be no penalty.

When submitting 2012 program forms, individuals (sole proprietors) need to remember supplemental information (inventories, payables, receivables, deferrals and purchased inputs) is to be sent directly to SCIC. An individual's income and expense information must be completed on the T1163 form and submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency; however, that information can also be sent to SCIC electronically using AgConnect. Corporations, cooperatives and other entities are to continue to submit all their program forms directly to SCIC.

An excellent way for producers to meet the December 31 deadline is through AgConnect, SCIC's online tool for reviewing and submitting AgriStability information. AgConnect enables producers to submit program forms electronically and meet the year-end deadline. Producers can also view their program fee on AgConnect and see payment details. To access AgConnect, a producer or designated contact person must have activated the account. If this has not been done, contact the AgriStability Call Centre and they can help start this online option.

December 31 is an important deadline. Advisors are available to help and can be reached through any of the 21 Crop Insurance offices. If a producer needs to access a form or requires a guide for completing the form, help can be found online at www.saskcropinsurance.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the local Crop Insurance office;
- Call the AgriStability call centre at 1-866-270-8450; or
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

SCIC ENCOURAGES CUSTOMERS TO USE DIRECT DEPOSIT

Did you know Saskatchewan Crop Insurance customers who request a direct deposit will get their money faster? Sometimes as much as two weeks sooner than having it mailed?

In its efforts to streamline processes, SCIC is encouraging customers to sign up for direct deposit. By using direct deposit, SCIC can reduce paper consumption while providing more efficient service to its customers.

What can you do?

- When an adjuster visits your farm to adjust a crop, ask for a direct deposit form. Complete the form and give it to the adjuster to take back to the office.
- Stop by any SCIC office and ask to complete the direct deposit form.
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com to download a form; complete the form and mail, fax or drop it off at any SCIC office.

Direct deposit will not affect cheque deferral processes. AgriStability, Crop Insurance and customers with a claim under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program can all take advantage of this service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about this convenient way to do business:

- Contact SCIC at 1-888-935-0000 or 1-866-270-8450.

2014 Commodity Marketing Events

Building on the success of last year's commodity marketing events, the Ministry of Agriculture is hosting five grain marketing workshops across the province. Events will be held in Estevan on January 27, Yorkton on January 28, Moose Jaw on January 29, Swift Current on January 30 and Saskatoon on January 31.

Topics covered at this year's events are hedging, commodity trading, grain contracting and market outlook. Registration fee is $25 and lunch is provided.

SPEAKERS:

Regan Espeseth
Investment Advisors
RBC Dominion Securities
Mr. Espeseth will be speaking at all events.

Tyler Russell
National Grain
Marketing Manager
Cargill
Mr. Russell will be speaking at the Yorkton, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon events.

John DePape
President
Farmers Advance Risk Management Co.
Mr. DePape will be speaking at all events.

Greg Kostal
President
Kostal Ag Consulting
Mr. Kostal will be speaking at the Estevan and Swift Current events.

Wendy Kaplan
Manager of Customer Grain Marketing
Viterra
Ms. Kaplan will be speaking at the Estevan and Swift Current events.

Chris Corbett
Sales Manager
FarmLink Marketing Solutions
Mr. Corbett will be speaking at Yorkton, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon events.

For more information visit a Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office near you; or contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
December 3, 2013	Cattleman's Appreciation	Marengo, SK	1 866 457 2377	
December 4, 2013	Cattleman's Appreciation	Turtleford, SK	1-866-457-2377	
December 6, 2013	Board elections for the Saskatchewan Wheat and Barley Commissions EXTENDED		306-975-6853	www.saskwheatcommission.com, www.saskbarleycommission.com
January 13 - 16, 2014	Crop Production Show	Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK	1 888 931 9333	
January 14 - 15, 2014	Crop Sphere	Saskatoon, SK – TCU place	306-652-1420	
January 22 - 24, 2014	Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference	Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK	306-731-7610	

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS

SCA media tour shows reporters "real" agriculture

by Shelley Jones, Manager
Agriculture Awareness Unit
Regional Services Branch

When the media arrived in Howard Toews' pasture near Watrous on September 4, he greeted them with typical prairie hospitality. Today, the TV, radio and newspaper reporters were not here to cover an event, they were here to learn and experience agriculture.

Toews' pasture was the start of a media tour organized by the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA) to showcase the stewardship of Saskatchewan's livestock producers and the many facets of the provincial livestock industry. The tour also gave the media a chance to hear a rancher like Toews talk about agriculture without the pressure of having to report on a story.

A hay ride gave the reporters a chance to get close to Toews' herd, and to hear how Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) hurts him economically. While touring the lake that Toews has preserved with help from the Farm Stewardship Program under Growing Forward, he told how his stewardship of the cattle and land has environmental, and recreational benefits.

Then the group was off to the Pound-Maker Integrated feedlot and fuel ethanol facility. At the ethanol plant, the reporters learned how ethanol was produced from locally grown grain and how the by-products of the process were turned into feed for the cattle in the affiliated feedlot. The Pound-Maker staff ended their part of the day with a presentation on their animal husbandry and health care protocols and the environmental and economic sustainability of the joint operation.

The day wrapped up at the Western Beef Development Centre with a demonstration of the centre's bio-digester, which is the only one of its kind in North America producing biogas, energy and fertilizer from solid manure.

Saskatchewan Agriculture's Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program provided assistance for this awareness project, which the SCA is considering making a regular event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Awareness Unit at 306-787-9773.

Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture